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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /070 W
----------131847Z 055512 /44
R 131445Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7449
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY VICTORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 4607

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, KE
SUBJECT: UNIVERSITY TAKES DISCIPLINARY ACTION

1. UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI COUNCIL APRIL 13 SUSPENDED ALL 170 FACULTY OF COMMERCE SECOND-YEAR STUDENTS FOR DURATION (THIRD TRIMESTER) OF SCHOOL YEAR. ALL SUSPENDED STUDENTS MUST APPLY INDIVIDUALLY FOR READMISSION IN NEXT SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING OCTOBER 1977. THE COUNCIL WARNED THAT ANY OTHER STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN HOOLIGANISM INVOLVING STUDENTS, STAFF OR PROPERTY OF THE UNIVERSITY WOULD BE SUSPENDED IMMEDIATELY.

2. UNIVERSITY COUNCIL'S ACTION WAS IN RESPONSE TO DEMONSTRATIONS MARCH 23 AND 24 BY STUDENTS AT FACULTY OF COMMERCE IN SUPPORT OF FEMALE STUDENT WHO HAD BEEN DEMOTED FROM SECOND TO FIRST YEAR STATUS, FOR HAVING FAILED FIRST YEAR EXAMS LAST MAY. IF COURSE OF DEMON-STRATION A NUMBER OF UNINVOLVED STUDENTS AND A FACULTY MEMBER WERE ROUGHED UP AND UNIVERSITY PROPERTY WAS DESTROYED. HOWEVER NOT ALL OF 170 FACULTY OF COMMERCE STUDENTS SUSPENDED TOOK PART.
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3. UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR KARANJA TOLD EMBOFFS APRIL 13 THAT SMALL MINORITY OF TROUBLE MAKERS COULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO DISRUPT NORMAL OPERATION OF UNIVERSITY. BOTH NAIROBI DAILY NEWSPAPERS, PARTICULARLY THE NATION, HAVE BEEN CALLING FOR AUTHORITIES TO GET TOUGH ON THE CAMPUS.

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4. STUDENTS ARE CURRENTLY ON VACATION. CLASSES ARE SCHEDULED TO RESUME APRIL 17. WHILE THE DISCIPLINARY MEASURES HANDED OUT AT THE FACULTY OF COMMERCE COULD IN TURN PROVOKE COUNTER MEASURES BY STUDENTS, THE UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION EVIDENTLY BELIEVES SITUATION CAN BE CONTROLLED. PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AT UNIVERSITY COMMENTED TO EMBOFF RECENTLY THAT STUDENTS ARE FAR LESS POLITICIZED, AND FAR LESS WILLING TO TAKE RISKS THAN WAS CASE ONLY A FEW YEARS AGO. RECENT ELECTIONS FOR SUDENT BODY LEADERSHIP POSITIONS ATTRACTED LITTLE INTEREST, EVEN ON CAMPUS. IF SUSPENSION OF FACULTY OF COMMERCE STUDENTS STICKS, AS IS LIKELY, ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE REASSERTED COMPLETE CONTROL OVER STUDENTS IT ENJOYED THROUGHOUT FIRST TEN YEARS (1962-1972) OF UNIVERSITY'S HISTORY.
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Message Attributes

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Concepts: STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS
Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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TAGS: PINT, SEDU, KE
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